

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

May 12, 2017

Column #135

Hear Our Voice! - Part 15



DO YOU DARE TO SIGN THE PLEDGE OF LIBERATION?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

SIGNING the “Pledge of Liberation” marks my final act as writer of this series.

If you agree with the principles in this tenth action of the Pink Pussyhat Movement’s “10 Actions/100 Days” project, I suggest you make three copies of this column and mail them to your elected representatives, with a cover note stating words to this effect.

“Dear (name of congressman or senator): I am (your name) and I endorse this Pledge of Liberation. I suggest you do, too.”

Then, go online and sign the complete document, highlights of which are excerpted here.

Why? The Pledge of Liberation was issued on March 8, 2017, exactly six months after the national election that shocked the nation by appearing to undo more than half a century of progress in civil rights and social justice.

In brief, did the election of Donald J. Trump restore White Supremacy and its corollary White Privilege to the White House?

Or did it raise the issue so re-examination in a new era of politics popularly described as “the Browning of America” can take place?

The Women’s March on Washington that mobilized women internationally on January 21 brings this new declaration to you. It contains the H word that I’ve yet to hear Trump mention even once. This Pledge addresses Homelessness liberally, upending the conservative status quo, and you don’t have to be female to endorse it. Excerpts include:

Highlights Of The Pledge Of Liberation

We believe that women’s rights are human rights and human rights are women’s rights. . . and we ask our members of Congress to remember their own pledges to their communities and constituents.

We marched on January 21 for these values. . .

We call on all members of Congress to uphold these principles. . . They are the principles in which our resistance movement is rooted. This is our Pledge of Liberation to each other.

1. ENDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE - Women deserve to live full and healthy lives, free of all forms of violence against our bodies.

2. ENDING STATE + POLICE VIOLENCE - We reject all forms of violence, particularly violence perpetrated by those who claim to protect and serve the people.

3. REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS + JUSTICE - We believe in Reproductive Freedom.

4. LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS - We firmly declare that LGBTQIA+ Rights are Human Rights.

5. WORKER'S RIGHTS + ECONOMIC JUSTICE - We believe . . . All women should be paid equitably. . . We demand an end to the criminalization of poverty and homelessness. We demand more affirming housing options for marginalized people, and more short- and long-term emergency housing for homeless people and people in crisis, particularly homeless youth. We demand quality and affordable mental health services for people at risk of homelessness.

6. CIVIL RIGHTS + RACIAL JUSTICE - We believe Civil Rights are our birthright.

7. DISABILITY RIGHTS - We believe that all women's issues are issues faced by women with disabilities and Deaf women. We demand the right of women and all people with disabilities to be fully included.

8. IMMIGRANT RIGHTS - Rooted in the promise of America's call for huddled masses yearning to breathe free, we believe in immigrant and refugee rights.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE - We believe that every person and every community in our nation has the right to clean water, clean air, and access to and enjoyment of public lands.

10. ENDING WAR - We recognize that to achieve any of the goals outlined within this statement, we must work together to end war and live in peace.

We pledge allegiance to each other and to the liberation of all people. Join us. Make your #PledgeOfLiberation today. www.womensmarch.com!

White Supremacy/White Privilege In A Nutshell

Reverend Elaine Gehrman, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, says:

White Supremacy is a traditional operating system or hierarchy (various classes or levels) which is patriarchal (run by men, usually white).

White Privilege is the benefits (or lack thereof) of the system.

Regardless of our skin color or ethnic origin, we are all influenced by White Supremacy even if we aren't overtly racist. Can the system be replaced by something better?

Bear in mind before you send copies of this column to your elected representatives that the party that holds the most-powerful weapon usually dominates. The Unitarian Universalist Association, like this Pledge of Liberation, is standing on the side of love. Are you?

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Senator Kamala Harris
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Senator Dianne Feinstein
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